

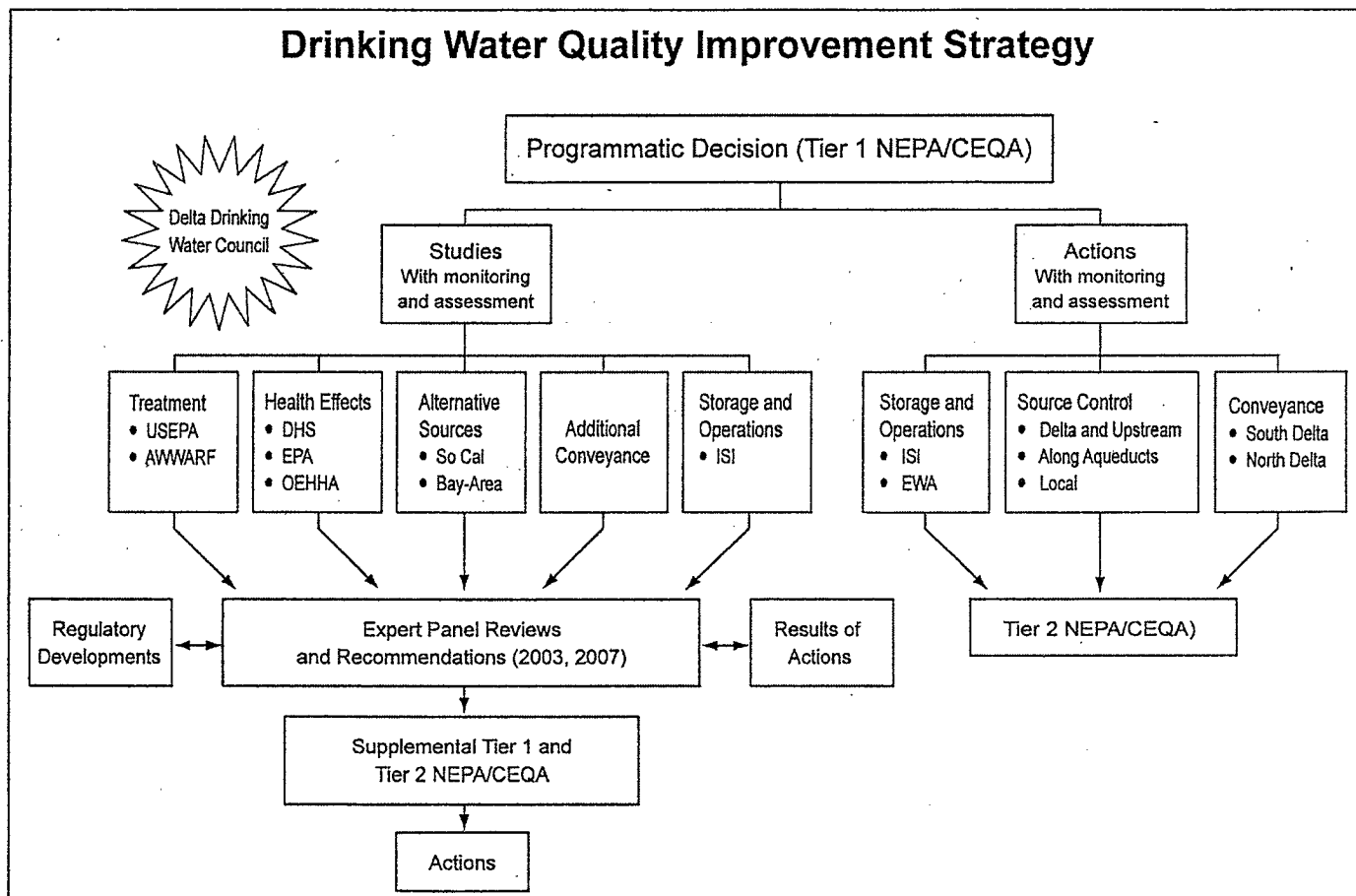
November 1999

Water Quality Program Reorganized *Drinking Water Council Formed*

The CALFED Program has reorganized the Water Quality Program into the new "Drinking Water Quality Program" to implement CALFED's Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy. CALFED has convened the Delta Drinking Water Council to advise the Program on how to achieve drinking water objectives.

Environmental water quality actions are now part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

The CALFED drinking water quality objective is to continuously improve source water quality that allows municipal water suppliers to deliver safe, reliable and affordable drinking water that meets, and where feasible, exceeds applicable drinking water standards. The Program will use a combination of measures to reduce the amounts and impacts of bromide, total organic carbon, pathogens, nutrients, salinity and turbidity. The Council will advise CALFED on the combination of actions and studies needed to improve drinking water quality.



The Council will help CALFED frame the issues and choose the members of two independent expert panels to be convened in 2003 and 2007. The expert panels will review the Program's progress towards drinking water quality goals and recommend additional actions if appropriate. The expert panels will report their findings to the state Legislature, Congress and CALFED.

The Delta Drinking Water Council is a subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Advisory Committee (BDAC). Members were chosen for their technical and policy expertise in drinking water regulations, human health effects, water treatment, Delta hydrology and water quality, water management and operations, water quality modeling and monitoring, and source control.

The next Council meeting is December 16. Meetings are open to the public.

Delta Drinking Water Council

Walter J. Bishop, Contra Costa Water District

Huali Chai, The Bay Institute

Russell E. Fuller, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency

Donald Gauthier, Helix Water District

Bruce Macler, U.S. EPA

Phillip Metzger, U.S. EPA

David Okita, Solano County Water Agency

Pankaj Parekh, City of Los Angeles

Timothy Quinn, MWD of Southern California

Robert F. Shanks, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

David Spath, California Dept. of Health Services

Frances Spivy-Weber, Mono Lake

Walt Wadlow, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Marguerite Young, Clean Water Action

Steve Zapotichny, Southern Calif. Water Committee

Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency

Snow Goes to Bureau

Lester A. Snow has left CALFED to head the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. He was CALFED's first executive director.

Before leaving CALFED, Lester expressed confidence in the Program's continued progress:

"The CALFED Program is of critical importance to the people of California. I am confident that the excellent and committed CALFED staff will enable us to maintain momentum through this transition."

CALFED's executive director is a joint appointment of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the governor of California. Steve Ritchie, CALFED chief deputy director since July 1998, is fulfilling the duties of executive director. Steve came to CALFED from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Prior to that, he served seven years as executive officer of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Lester will continue to participate in CALFED as the Bureau of Reclamation representative on the Policy Group.

CALFED Reviewing Comments

CALFED technical staff is reviewing and preparing responses to the thousands of comments received on the draft Program plan.

The June 25 release of the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) initiated a 90-day public comment period. The CALFED Program received about 4,000 written responses – about 3,000 of these were form letters and postcards. In addition to the written responses, over 750 people commented verbally at the 16 public hearings held during August and September.

The task of reviewing and evaluating comments is daunting. Many of the letters contain dozens of points on different aspects of the Program that must receive a response; several letters are more than 100 pages long. Verbal comments from the hearings were limited to three minutes, and so are somewhat easier to review.

The comments and responses will be compiled in a "Response to Documents" appendix to the final EIS/EIR. CALFED expects to release the final plan for public review in April 2000.

CALFED Implementation – Who Will Make the Decisions?

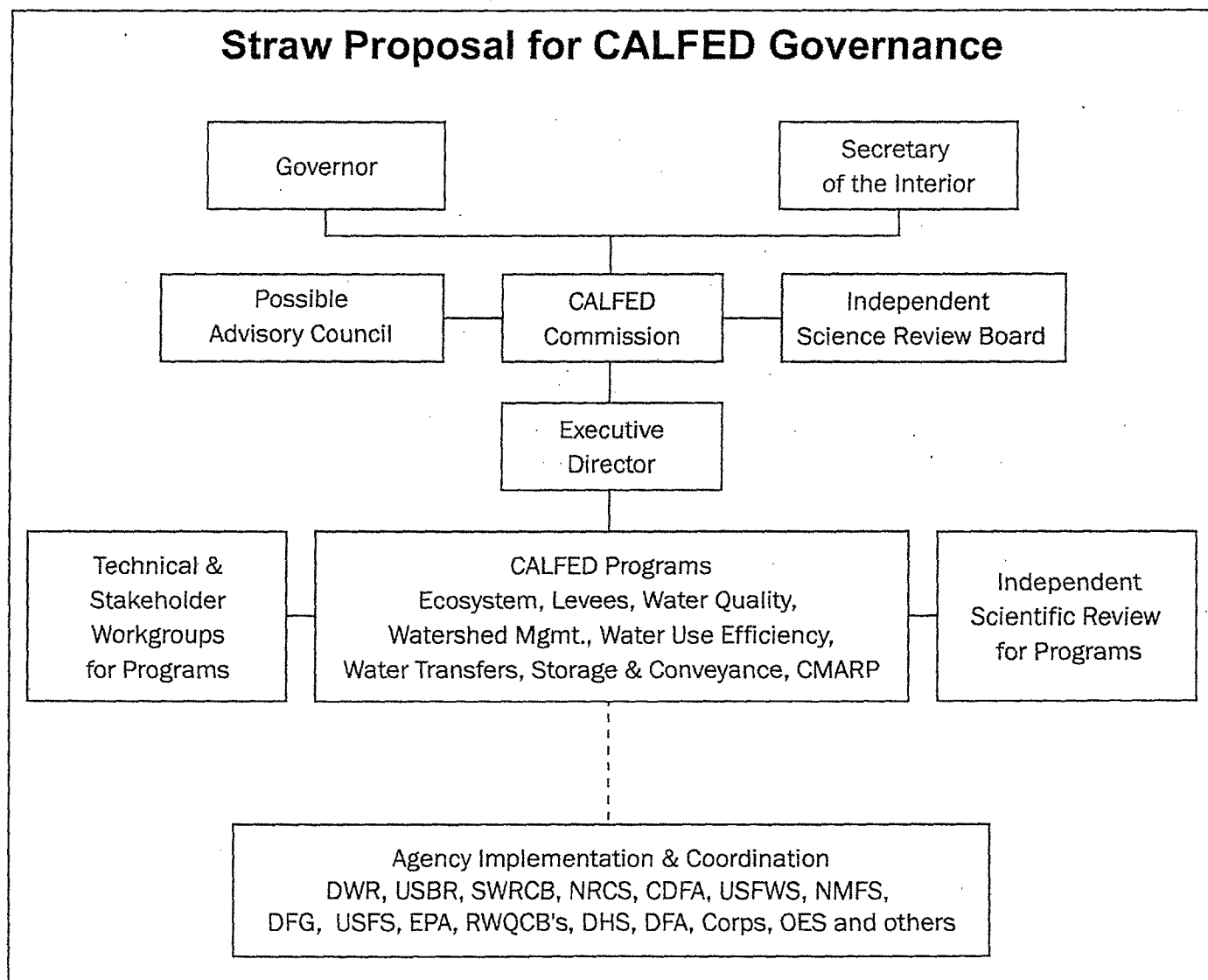
It has long been recognized that CALFED will need a different organizational structure to implement the plan than was used to develop the plan. The CALFED staff has developed a “straw proposal” outlining a long-term governance structure for the implementation phase of the CALFED Program, which begins when the final EIS/EIR is approved in June 2000.

The collaboration of the state and federal agencies will remain a key component of CALFED, as will public involvement. The straw proposal recommends a CALFED Commission to manage and coordinate the CALFED Program. The

Commission would be chaired by the California Secretary of Resources and the U.S. Secretary of Interior, and composed of equal numbers of representatives from state and federal agencies and the public – representatives of agricultural water users, urban water users, environmental concerns, the Delta, rural watersheds and fishing.

In addition to representation of the public on the Commission, an advisory body similar to the existing Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) is proposed. Technical and stakeholder workgroups would also continue to work with the program elements.

Straw Proposal for CALFED Governance



CALFED staff would oversee the implementation of program actions, which will be performed by the appropriate state and federal agencies. For example, levee improvements could be made by the Department of Water Resources or the Corps of Engineers.

The Commission would be responsible for ensuring that scientific and technical information and review is incorporated into the program at several levels. An independent science review board would be appointed by the Commission to assure the appropriate use of science in decision-making.

State and federal legislation would be needed to create the Commission. It is possible that hearings could be held early next year. Legislation can take time, however. It is likely that short-term administration of the program will be under the existing CALFED organization.

A final draft governance proposal should be completed in December. The state Legislature is expected to schedule a CALFED hearing in January that will include the topic of long-term governance.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 14 **Bay-Delta Advisory Council**
Sterling Hotel
1300 H Street
Sacramento

Dec. 15 **CALFED Policy Group**
Convention Center
1400 J Street
Sacramento

View Comments on line

Comment letters and hearing transcripts are available
on the CALFED web site:
[http://calfed.ca.gov/environmental_docs/
public_meetings.html](http://calfed.ca.gov/environmental_docs/public_meetings.html)



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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*The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta
Program is to develop a long-term
comprehensive plan that will restore
ecological health and improve water
management for beneficial uses of the
Bay-Delta system.*



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